

In the Abstract:

Please replace paragraph the Abstract on page 41 with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A telecommunications system comprises a transmitter within the central terminal for sending a data message destined for a particular subscriber terminal over communication channels as a number of data blocks. A frame generator is provided within the central terminal for generating a number of frames to represent each data block, each frame having a header portion and data portion. The header portion is arranged to be transmitted in a fixed format chosen to facilitate reception of the header portion by each subscriber terminal, and is arranged to include a number of control fields for providing information about the data portion. The data portion is arranged to be transmitted in a variable format.

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